



**Testimony  
Robin Wilson  
President & CEO  
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce  
Before the  
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee  
March 15, 2010**

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce opposes the following bills:

- **SB-436, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL REVENUE**, which increases sources of municipal revenue by giving municipalities local option taxing authority and allowing them to unilaterally increase fees otherwise set or limited by statute.
- **HB-5480, AN ACT PERMITTING A REGIONAL SALES TAX** - To allow regional planning organizations to impose a sales tax as a source of revenue.
- **HB-5483, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL HOTEL TAX** - To allow regional planning organizations to impose a hotel tax as a source of revenue.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce urges lawmakers to *reject legislation that will allow towns to impose an additional layer of taxes on businesses and customers.*

In order to improve Connecticut's business climate and reduce the cost of doing business in this state, we need to refrain from imposing additional taxes on our business community. Connecticut lost close to 100,000 jobs since March 2008. Unemployment continues to remain at very high levels. Given the job losses and high unemployment rate, creating a more competitive business climate that nurtures and supports job growth must be a top priority this year.

During these difficult economic times, Connecticut's tax policies must remain competitive with other states and encourage rather than stifle job growth. Unfortunately, allowing towns or other entities to impose another layer of taxes on businesses will undermine any chance of economic recovery and job growth. It is particularly troubling that HB-5480 and HB-5483 authorize regional planning organizations, which are not elected or accountable to citizens, to impose taxes.

We must take steps to nurture the growth of business and get people back to work. By reducing the size of government and making state and local government more efficient, we can work together to address the budget deficit and better position Connecticut for economic recovery.

*The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 750 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.*